

AUG 11 2006

Substitute Claims

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1. (Original) An axial flow device comprising:
a housing,
a substantially annular chamber within said housing to convey a substantially incompressible working fluid from an inlet to an outlet,
said chamber including at least two stages that each include a rotor section and a stator section,
said rotor section including a multi-bladed drive wheel positioned downstream of said inlet and operative to rotate around an axis to drive working fluid from the inlet to the outlet, and
said stator section being positioned downstream of the rotor section and including plural vanes substantially fixed relative to said housing and geometrically arranged to define a flow path having a cross-sectional area between vanes that increases from an entry point to an exit point of the stator section.
 2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, wherein [said stator vane] said vanes of said stator section are variable in pitch and operative as a flow straightener of said working fluid or to adjust the angle of attack of the working fluid upon entry into a following rotor section.
 3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, wherein said outlet comprises a convergent annular chamber at a discharge nozzle whereby to increase velocity of [liquid] working fluid discharged from said outlet.
 4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 3, wherein said convergent annular chamber includes a variable throat area positioned immediately upstream of said outlet to vary the velocity of [the liquid] working fluid discharged from said outlet.